

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS

HOW CAN VA'S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM HELP ME?

This program can help you *prepare for, get, and keep a suitable job*. If you are too seriously disabled to work, we can provide services to help you learn *to live more independently*. These benefits are in addition to any VA compensation or military retirement benefits you are entitled to receive.

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I CAN RECEIVE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

If VA has granted you a combined service-connected disability rating of at least 10 percent, you may be able to receive vocational rehabilitation benefits. After you apply, a VA counselor will schedule an evaluation with you. This evaluation is private and confidential and requires several hour to complete.

During this evaluation of your need for vocational rehabilitation, you and your counselor will gain a better understanding of your skills, talents, and interests and how they relate to your disabilities and the job market. Your counselor will use the results of this evaluation to decide whether you meet the conditions to receive vocational rehabilitation.

WHAT KINDS OF HELP CAN I RECEIVE?

Program Planning: If your counselor finds you need vocational rehabilitation to get or hold a job or to live more independently, both of you will develop a plan of services and assistance. This plan will lead to either employment or increased independence in daily living. Typical job-focused plans may include, among many benefits available:

- developing skills and knowledge to be competitive in the job market
- obtaining the tools and equipment you will need for work
- assisting you to find and adjust to a suitable job

Training: When you apply, you may not already have the needed work skills to meet the entry level requirements for a suitable job. In this case, you may need a period of training to develop these skills.

Job Assistance: We will help you find employment. For example, you may need help in preparing a resume, in developing interviewing skills, or in planning an effective campaign to get a job.

Payment of Program Costs and Living Allowances: We will pay the costs of your rehabilitation services and training. In addition, we will arrange for you to receive the medical, dental, or other special assistance you need to complete your program. If you need training, you will receive a monthly living allowance while you train.

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HOW LONG CAN I RECEIVE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFITS?

Months of Training: Unlike the Montgomery GI Bill, you are not entitled to a fixed number of months of benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. If your counselor determines you need training to get a suitable job, you may train up to the point you become employable, but no more than 48 months.

Job Assistance: You may receive help in getting and keeping a job for up to 18 months.

Time Limit to Complete a Program: Generally, you may receive benefits under this program during a 12-year period beginning the date VA notifies you in writing that you are entitled to at least 10 percent compensation. Under certain conditions, this period may begin at an earlier date or may be extended.

HOW DO I RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION?

Telephone: To obtain more information about vocational rehabilitation and how it can help you, you should call 1-800-827-1000 or for the hearing impaired TDD 1-800-829-4833.

Internet: If you have access to the internet, you can also obtain program information at the following address:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vrc/vrcindex.htm>

HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete and send us VA Form 28-1900, Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation, to the nearest VA regional office.

NOTE: Sending us this form does not bind you in any way. Sending us this form will not affect your compensation, other VA education benefits, or military retirement pay.